me if I am wrong - is that whether this programme will be extended further or not. Am I right? Did you ask this?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The pilot project has started. Besides smaller programmes related to women, child welfare, awareness among Adivasis, distance education have also started but our objective was to provide technical courses, engineering courses through the pilot project.

[English]

Syllabus-based courses for engineering students using distant tele-education techniques in collaboration with Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineers-

[Translation]

Why has this programme not been stated? What are the reasons? Part (b) of the question is which are the areas being benefitted from this project?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, the point is that so far as other dimensions of knowledge are concerned, as has been spelt out in the reply, the main idea is not only ISRO but there are other channels which are also being used. This particular one is only meant for this type of thing. But we are having workshops just now on the expansion of this programme ISRO may not be able to take all the programmes. We have to involve other satellite organisations, the entire dimension, in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, into this. That is where new orientation as I said just now is being made and this data will be very useful to us for this.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Sir, in most of these programmes, the receiving sets in the villages do not function. To my knowledge, 90 per cent of them do not function with the result that the very purpose of the programme is defeated.

We all know that the family planning is a very important programme. Why is it that they have taken up a pilot programme in Madhya Pradesh? They do not concentrate on such programmes and instead diversify the funds to engineering colleges, medical colleges etc.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN : Sir, it is a continuous process. Actually, they are all utilising this uplink.

Contraceptive Vaccine

*303. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that an Indian scientist has developed the World's first contraceptive vaccine for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check its efficiency and make use of it in the family planning sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The contraceptive vaccine for women is being developed by a team of scientists at National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi.

(b) Phase-I and II human clinical trials with the vaccine have been completed. The vaccine has been found safe but the response to the vaccine amongst receipents is unpredictable and not sustained.

(c) Considerable research work is still required to establish its effectiveness in a genetically diverse population in a predictable manner for pregnancy protection before it can be considered for use in National Family Welfare Programme.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : The contraceptive vaccine for women was being developed by our research institutes. However, after the first and second human trials that had been conducted successfully, we found that the results were not stable. They did not sustain themselves and varied from person to person. The difficulty that we are facing about this is that it needs, at present stage, multiple shots which will not be feasible for us to execute. The research continues so that we can compress this programme into a one shot vaccination. But it will take some time before we can achieve the target.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : In part (b) of the reply, it has been mentioned that Phase-I and II human clinical trials have been completed. I would like to know how many such trials have been conducted and whether they are conducted on eligible persons or non-eligible persons.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I am sure the hon. Member will appreciate that such experiments are conducted on voluntary couples.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : How many MPs are involved?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : It was conducted on 100 women. Since the hon. Member has asked, I would also mention that no Member of Parliament is involved in this as yet. This was done on short-term safety parameters so that there were no after-effects. Phase-II was done at the same centres, AIIMS, New Delhi and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, Part (c) of the reply mentions that considerable research work is still required to be done. I would like to know whether it is being done at ICMR. Since this programme is first of its kind, I would also like to know whether the concurrence and approval of the World Health Organisation is required or not.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Initially, this was started in the ICMR and the funding was also done

by us. Subsequently, we have asked for other funding sources. The World Health Organisation makes several recommendations and keep a stringent eye on our various other programmes. But we do not require WHO approval for what we are doing here.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : I would like to know from the Government when was this vaccine developed? Was this experiment done in Delhi alone or elsewhere also? In Adivasi areas people use herbs. Has the Government made any effort to do some research in the use of these herbs.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : It is a fact that there are several types of family planning methods. We are doing intensive research into alternative. Indian System of medicine.

[Translation]

Where we are making use of these herbs. This experiment was done in PGI, Chandigarh, AIIMS and Safdarjung in New Delhi and we are hopeful that in near future we would be able to find an alternative in Indian System of medicine which would scientifically compute.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Many of these herbs are being used in Adivasi areas, but is the Government making any effort to identify and conduct research in this field...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, we are conducting research in Ayurvedic contraceptives and the results would be known in the near future.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these experiments are very expensive. I would like to know whether there is any scheme of the Government to make available these experiments at low cost in rural areas?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Scientific documentation is very essential so far as efforts in villages are concerned because whatever experiments of medicines are made it would be done on human beings and the side effects can be dangerous.

[English]

We cannot compromise on the quality of human life and care. So whatever money is being spent is never going to be enough when you take into consideration human safety factors.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Minister is speaking about contraceptives, several such incidents have already occurred in Maharashtra and other rural areas of the country. Several times, operations are performed and they prove failure. When operation of men prove failure, big social and family problems arise. In such cases great injustice is done to woman and if even after taking contraceptive a woman gets pregnant it creates great problems for her. Do the Government propose to take any steps in such cases?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Whatever the hon. Member said is true. I agree with her...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Since you are a woman, you should agree...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

It is a fact that family planning operations which are being done have to be handled sensitively and any kind of failure will cause a severe setback in our national programmes. That is why, judicious caution is being exercised before we release any kind of vaccination or any drug which has remained in the pipeline. It is because we have taken such factors into consideration.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, this is a very serious issue, which should not be taken lightly...*(Interruptions)* Family Welfare Programme should be implemented effectively to control population of the country. It is very necessary for our country. But if this programme is implemented at the cost of the health of women, it is not just and desirable. Today, fortunately a woman is Health Minister of the country. Through you, I want to tell her that this issue is related not only to this vaccine only, but the contraceptives or measures being taken for family planning at present cause great hardship to women. Very often complaints are being received of Uterus cancer caused by the use of copper T. So, you say it is safe but it is not predictable. At present precaution is needed. It has to be ascertained as to how safe the methods are which are already in use. Will the hon. Minister try to undertake a review of these methods?

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I would like to inform the House that absolute care and utmost jurisprudence is used in our facilities for contraceptives.

[Translation]

This question does not arise.

[English]

that utility of Copper-T is causing cancer. There were other intra-uterine devices which contributed to this and a ban has been put on these devices and a continuous vigilance continues so that the people are not affected.

[Translation]

You have raised a very basic question that male participation in family planning is very less. In the entire country only three per cent men participates in family

planning. For the knowledge of the House. I want to tell that male harmone develop...*(Interruptions)* so that men are also given injection. This arrangement is being made.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will this injection be given to all the MPs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, I am neither amused nor cynical about it. The question of growing population is a serious one. As my hon. colleague has pointed out, this is a serious concern that men must know and respect the womanhood in the family. Men must learn that this country can be developed only if men play their roles. As she said, if men go on shouting, without involving in the family planning, that the population should not increase, then I do not know how the country can be developed.

Corruption in ICCR

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*304. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "culture of corruption in ICCR" appearing in the Pioneer on July 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of irregularities committed by the officials and others in ICCR;

(c) the action taken against these persons;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of ICCR during each of the last three years;

(e) if so, the outcome of the review; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to revitalise ICCR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such "culture of corruption" in the organisation.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The functioning of the ICCR is monitored by the Governing Body and the General Assembly consisting of persons of high standing, including representatives of Parliament. Besides, there are Sub-Committee looking after programme, administration and finance of the ICCR. The accounts of the organisation are annually audited by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India. Further, reviewing of the functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs, including the ICCR— an autonomous body under its overall jurisdiction— is on-going process. Each year the functioning of the ICCR is reviewed as a part of the Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs. Additionally the Standing Committee of Parliament for External Affairs had set up a Special sub-committee to study the functioning of the ICCR and its report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 19th December,1995 and to the Rajya Sabha on the same day.

(e) The functioning of the ICCR as a whole has been guided by the recommendations of the various bodies and committees mentioned at 2(d) above. The Review of the Ministries Annual Report by Parliament becomes the guideline for ICCR's woring. The Standing Committee's report has been examined and acted upon by ICCR with full care. First Action Taken Report on certain clarifications sought by the Committee was placed before the Committee on 22 December,1995. The Committee's comments and suggestions thereon were responded to by the Ministry 22.7.97.

(f) As a matter of general policy, the Government is continuously attempting to revitalise the working of various sections of the Ministry, including the ICCR, and the suggestions emanating from the Hon'ble Members and the Standing Committee are carefully pursued for compliance. Moreover recommendations on improvement suggested by it own bodies and committees continuously guide the ICCR's working.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, it is such a long reply that it will be completed only by 12 noon. He may himself ask one or two supplementary questions and let the question hour be over.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Just listen please...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You will read the reply in question hour and I will come and listen it later on.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : You may ask the supplementary.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Indian Council for Cultural Relation is an important and prestigious organisation functioning for the last 50 years. Except one or two exceptions, Vice President has been its president. Charges of corruption against such a prestigious institute or making such allegations against it is not a good thing and nobody wants it. But the reply given by the Government is a disappointing one. The Government may have used the words 'Culture of Corruption' but it doesn't signifies development, it rather signifies distortation of culture. But on the issue of this council, Members of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : You are taking too much time.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Why are you worried about my time...*(Interruptions)* Members of Parliament